

Weekly Column for July 18, 2007

Welcome to a rainy City of Troy. We are certainly in one of those weather patterns where it seems as if we get enough rain for the year. At least it's not snowing.

For the second time in the last few weeks, we have a "Best-Of" list to discuss this week, this one coming courtesy of Metroland. And boy, what a list it was. Many thanks go out to their staff, who I'm sure put in a tremendous amount of work to put the issue together. And they certainly are well aware of some of the wonderful things on this side of the river.

Rather than talk about each mention they had of Troy, I figured I would list them, with just a few exceptions. I was named Best Bohemian Mayor in the area, which had me laughing for quite awhile.

Secondly, though not technically a Troy "Best-of," Rocky Velvet was named Best Band in the area, and I could not be happier for them. Hailing from Rensselaer County, they have always been great allies for the City. This mention comes at a great time as well, as the City has booked Rocky Velvet to play a show next week for Troy Night Out. More details next week, but the basics are a 7-9 p.m. show on State Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Should be a great time.

Without further ado, onto the list of places in Troy that received mention this morning:

Best New Restaurant- Tosca Grille

Best New Restaurant When It Doesn't Matter Who's Paying- South End Tavern

Best Italian Neighborhood Restaurant- Testo's

Best Pizza- DeFazio's Pizzeria

Best Lebanese- Al-Baraki

Best Mediterranean- Ali Baba

Best Peruvian- The Hot Spot

Best Cuban- Carmen's Café

Best Brunch- Tosca Grille

Best Smoothie- Shake Shake Mama's

Best Diner- Arnet's

Best Pub Food- The Ale House

Best Margaritas- Jose Malone's

Best Tattoo Shop- Full Effect Tattooing

Best Comic Book Shop- Aquilonia

Best Farmer's Market- Troy Farmer's Market

Best Performance Radio Show That Just Won't Go Away- Jim Barrett and Kaleidoscope

Best Park (Restricted Access)- Washington Park

Best College Bar- The Ruck

Best Afterparty – Troy Night Out  
Best DIY Gallery- The Red Gallery  
Best Art Gallery Food- Kismet Gallery  
Best Dance Troupe- Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company  
Best Venue for Orchestras- Troy Savings Bank Music Hall  
Best Concert Club- Revolution Hall  
Best Guitarist (Acoustic)- Maria Zemantauski

That is one tremendous list, and presents a great opportunity to those who may not have experienced some of the new, and old, things happening in Troy.

I had a meeting this week with two young women named Candace Adams and Maxine Barasch, who have started a group called the Capital Region Young Professionals Association. They have a ton of energy, and I really think their idea will take-off, and Troy will be one to benefit. They seem to like the progress in Troy, and have some interesting ideas. Check out their website at [www.crypa.org](http://www.crypa.org)

It is the motivation of people like Candace and Maxine, coupled with Best-Of articles like that in Metroland today that really help the City of Troy push forward.

Over the last few years we have seen a tremendous amount of young professionals move into our City and make it home. As we rebuild and continue to become a destination spot for urban living, these small occurrences all join together and become a great promotional tool. And I could not be happier.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy